WORLD LANGUAGES

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EDIM 507: Globalization and Advocacy

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**Lesson Topic:** Languages of the World

**Grade and Subject Area**: 5th Grade Math

**Lesson Overview**: Students will examine… Today, nearly 1.4 billion people speak Chinese—nearly three times the number of English speakers.

**1. Introduction:** The teacher will introduce the lesson by playing a video in which the audio is a popular spoken language other than English. For example, the video [Chinese For Kids: Level 01: Volume 01](http://player.discoveryeducation.com/index.cfm?guidAssetId=B8155BD1-9BE3-41D7-8309-DA355C8287C6&blnFromSearch=1&productcode=US)  on Discovery Streaming shows a little boy named Billy introducing himself in Mandarin Chinese. The subtitles are included in both Mandarin and English.

Following the video, the teacher will share with the class the idea that while English may be the language everyone is listening to and learning today, within the next 10 or 15 years, it will likely find itself sharing the world's spotlight. Whether or not kids learn Chinese today, experts predict that they will face a different world—with a changing linguistic landscape—by the time they reach adulthood. Kids who learn Chinese and English will be ready to join the global conversation and take advantage of all the world has to offer. In this lesson, students will identify other popular world languages in addition to Mandarian Chinese.

**2. Learner Outcomes:** Objectives will be displayed on the interactive whiteboard.

* Students will examine three sets of data to identify the average number of native speakers in the ten most popular world languages.
* Students will order the data from least to greatest and identify the range between each data set.
* Students will develop an understanding and appreciation for the number of people that communicate in languages other than English.

**3. Stimulate Prior Recall:**

* Based on prior knowledge, students will make predictions about the top ten world languages. Students will record their predictions on an Interactive Smart Board Document and order the languages from least to greatest according to their predictions. This document will be displayed and used for comparisons throughout the lesson.

**4. Present New Information:**

* Students will work in partnerships to examine three data sets on world languages. (See Appendixes A, B, and C.)

**5. Provide Guided Learning Experience:**

* To model the activity, students will work as a class to identify the average number of people who speak Mandarian Chinese based on the information provided. The mean will be identified by organizing the data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.

**6. Independent / Group Learning Experience:**

* Students will continue the activity by identifying the mean number of speakers of each language presented and adding it to their Excel spreadsheets.
* Students plot the data on top world languages using an Internet based graphing program such as [Kids’ Zone Create-a-Graph](http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/) sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics.

**7. Provide Feedback**

* The teacher will circulate throughout the activity, providing scaffolding when necessary.
* The teacher will provide feedback on the appropriateness of the chosen graph display.

**8. Assess Performance**

* Graphing documents will be printed out and displayed in the classroom. They will be graded according to the accuracy of each identified mean and the appropriateness of the chosen graphing method.
* Each partnership’s graph will be assessed using a fully quantifiable rubric.

**9. Transfer**

* Students will participate in a discussion of the most popular world languages and the idea that the entire world does not communicate in English. This discussion will transition to the importance of learning other languages and an understanding that multilingualism leads to a better global understanding.

**APPENDIX A:**

**World’s Most Popular Languages**

*Source*: <http://whoyougle.com/texts/most-popular-languages>

The statistics say that today there are more than 6 thousand different languages. What a variety it is! However what should one do in the modern uniting world? Of course, attempts to create a universal artificial language were undertaken for many times. But no one succeeded in doing it. At the same time there are most popular languages among others. What is more, there are some criteria to define their popularity: for example, by number of native speakers or Internet users.

### Top ten most popular languages by number of native speakers

According to Ethnologue, a widely cited reference for languages around the world, most popular languages are:

### http://wyg.su/i/llustration/E/8/E83995C4-92DE-399D-A361-9E827562C915.jpg1. Chinese

The Chinese language is native for 1 billion 213 million people. What is more, it has an official status in the following countries: [China](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/CN), [Taiwan](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/TW), [Malaysia](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/MY), [Singapore](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/SG).

### 2. Spanish

Besides [Spain](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/ES) it is a spoken language almost everywhere in Latin America. Spanish is native for 329 million people.

### 3. English

Curiously enough but English is third most popular language by native speakers; it goes only after Chinese and Spanish. Though in the latter case the gap is only 1 million. Thus, English is native for 328 million people. Moreover, this number can be disputed; both English and Spanish can share the second place.

Unlike Chinese and Spanish the English language is spoken in 112 countries located around the world: in Europe ([the UK](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/GB), [Ireland](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/IE)), North America ([the USA](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/US), [Canada](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/CA)), [Australia](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/AU), Africa ([South Africa](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/ZA), [Nigeria](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/NG), [Zimbabwe](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/ZW)), Asia ([Singapore](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/SG), [Malaysia](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/MY)).

### 4. Arabic

Arabic is the fourth world’s most popular language; it is native for 221 million people and has an official status in 57 countries.

### 5. Hindi

Hindi, an official language in [India](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/IN) and [Fiji Islands](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/FJ), is the fifth most popular world’s language. It is native for 182 million people.

### http://wyg.su/i/llustration/C/8/C85A5405-746E-3DEB-AF7D-E662912ADBE4.jpg6. Bengali

It has an official status in [Bangladesh](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/BD); about 181 million people speak this language. What is more, Bengali is spoken in the Indian state of West Bengal.

### 7. Portuguese

Portuguese is the seventh world’s most popular language; it has an official status in 9 countries: [Portugal](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/PT), [Brazil](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/BR), [Angola](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/AO), [Mozambique](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/MZ), [Cape Verde](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/CV), [Guinea-Bissau](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/GW), [Macau](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/MO), [São Tomé and Príncipe](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/ST) and East Timor. Portuguese is native for 178 million people.

### 8. Russian

Russian, the most popular language among other Slavic languages, ranks eighth. It has an official status in the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, state of New York the USA, Moldova (Gagauzia and Transnistria). It is native for 144 million people.

### 9. Japanese

It is the ninth world’s most popular language; Japanese has an official status only in [Japan](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/JP) but it is also spoken in [North Korea](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/KP), [South Korea](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/KR), Taiwan, [Peru](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/PE) and Australia. 125 million people speak this language.

### http://wyg.su/i/llustration/5/9/59A67AB1-BAE5-3C58-8BB7-6490C7FF67C6.jpg10. German

German is the tenth world’s most popular language; it is native for 110 million people. What is more, it has an official status in the following countries: [Germany](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/DE), [Belgium](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/BE), [Austria](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/AT), [Liechtenstein](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/LI), [Switzerland](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/CH), [Luxembourg](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/LU), [Belgium](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/BE), the EU, and a local status in some regions of [Denmark](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/DK), [Italy](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/IT), [Poland](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/PL), [Vatican](http://whoyougle.com/place/countries/VA) (Administrative and commanding language of the Swiss Guard).

**APPENDIX B:**

*Source:* http://geography.about.com/od/culturalgeography/a/10languages.htm

# Most Popular Languages

## The 10 Most Popular Spoken Languages in the World

By [Matt Rosenberg](http://geography.about.com/bio/Matt-Rosenberg-268.htm), About.com Guide

Jun 14, 2010

Here's a listing of the ten most popular languages spoken worldwide, along with the approximate number of primary or first language speakers for that language.

Arabic - 206-422 million

Bengali - 173 million

English - 312-380 million

German - 96 million

Hindi - 181 million

Japanese - 128 million

Mandarin Chinese - 882 million

Portuguese - 178 million

Russian - 146 million

Spanish - 325 million

(Various sources were used to compile this listing of the most popular languages of the world but the primary source was the CIA World Factbook.)

APPENDIX C:

Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0775272.html>

**MOST POPULAR WORLD LANGUAGES**

